

Borough of Cardigan.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1938.

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1938 on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Cardigan.

The Borough of Cardigan is clustered round the River Teifi on both banks, part of which is really in the County of Pembroke (although administered by the County of Cardigan), and has a total area of 4,520 acres. The mid-summer estimated resident population was 3,202. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 was 1,011, and the total rateable value was £13,013, and the amount brought in by a penny rate is £49 13s. 6d. Cardigan and the area is purely agricultural; there are no works or industries.

During the year 1938 there were 44 live births, of which 23 were males and 21 were females. Of these numbers 21 males were legitimate and 2 illegitimate; 21 females were legitimate. There were 3 still births, of which 2 were male and 1 female, all of which were legitimate.

One baby under one year died—male legitimate child.

The deaths from all causes numbered 36, of which 21 were males and 15 females.

Two males and 3 females died from cancer; 1 male and 2 females died from tuberculosis of the lung; 2 males died from influenza, 1 female died of cirrhosis of the liver; 1 female died of appendicitis; 1 male under two years died of diarrhoea; 1 male died of pneumonia; 7 males and 4 females died of heart disease; 3 males died of other circulatory diseases; 2 males died of cerebral hæmorrhage; 1 female died from violence; 2 males and 3 females died from other defined diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases received during the year were 4—3 cases of pneumonia and 1 case of puerperal pyrexia.

There are no facilities (no isolation hospital) for the efficient isolation of cases of infectious disease. All infectious cases have to be nursed in the patient's home and the isolation attended to by the patient's own doctor, the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. In the past several abortive schemes have been made to get the surrounding areas to join to have one common hospital, but nothing ever came of the suggestions. It is to be hoped that the Cardiganshire County Council will make an early move in this direction and provide an isolation hospital for the whole County.

The Borough of Cardigan has one Medical Officer of Health (part-time) and one Sanitary Inspector (also part-time).

There are no laboratory facilities, all specimens being sent away for examination, generally to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea.

An ambulance is stationed at Cardigan Hospital which may be used for all cases which are not infectious diseases cases.

There are two fully trained nurses in the Borough, both of whom have their C.M.B. Certificate, as well as General State Registration. One of these nurses attends to ailments in the patient's home, and the other attends to midwifery cases only.

At Cardigan Hospital a Child's Welfare Clinic is held, also a Tuberculosis Clinic and a Mental Disease Clinic.

There is a small but efficient Hospital in Cardigan which admits medical, surgical and difficult or abnormal cases of midwifery. No cases of infectious disease are admitted and should such develop in an in-patient in the Hospital, that patient must be removed forthwith.

1.—WATER The Council have not yet taken steps to harness the new source of supply at Bryn Pedr Farm, Verwig, near Cardigan. The existing supply has sufficed the need of the town up to the present time. I would point out that should there be a serious outbreak of fire in the town and the only water available is from the water main, the town would suffer, as the storage is equivalent only to one day's supply. Cardigan is benefiting to-day from the heavy rainfall experienced in this part of the country during the last few years. Should we experience a period of three consecutive dry years like we experienced prior to 1936 I have no hesitation in stating that the supply from the present sources at Crugdu, Crugefa and Pant-y-dwr will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the town. The consumption is steadily increasing, and it may sooner than one would expect reach a point when the available supply would have to be restricted.

Two small extensions of the water main were carried out during the year, viz., Gwbert Road from Llynfelin to the junction of Llwynpiod Road and the Ridgeway extension. There was no contamination of the supply. The present supply is sterilised by chlorination with very good results.

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. One extension was carried out during the year, viz., Ridgeway extension which was constructed to drain the new Council houses and the existing houses at Ridgeway. The efficiency of existing sewers was maintained and investigation was carried out to ascertain further improvements required.

3.—PUBLIC CLEANSING. The standard of cleanliness was maintained, but the present mode of collecting refuse is not as expeditious as it should be. As pointed out in my report for the year 1937, the present lorry is most unsuitable for various reasons. It is

to be hoped that the Council will make provision for a more suitable lorry for the purpose of collecting refuse during the financial year 1939-1940.

There is sufficient evidence to prove that a section of the public does not appreciate the effort made to keep the town clean, neither does it realise its responsibility in connection therewith. The improvement hoped for during the year 1938 was not attained.

The Council might consider two suggestions with a view of further improving cleanliness in the town.

(1) Circularise the town periodically with circulars similar to those published by the National Health and Cleanliness Council.

(2) Provide waste-paper baskets at certain places in the town to enable people to place their waste paper, orange peel, etc., in them instead of throwing them on the streets as is done at present.

4.—RIVERS AND STREAMS. I am able to report a slight improvement regarding the dumping of refuse in rivers and streams, but there is still room for a vast improvement in this direction. With the number of refuse collections in operation in Cardigan it is difficult to understand the mentality of people who continue the bad practice of dumping refuse in rivers and streams.

5.—HOUSING.—I am glad that the Council have built the second lot of houses in order to improve the housing condition of the working classes in the town. It is to be hoped that they will not rest on their laurels until they have solved the question of housing. There are still many houses which fall far below the minimum standard requirements of a habitable house.

6.—SCHOOLS. There are three Elementary Schools and one Intermediate School in the Borough, all of which are efficiently drained and supplied with an ample supply of water.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1938.

Nuisances.—Number of unhealthy deposits removed, 17; number of animals improperly kept, 3; number of complaints investigated, 31; total number of inspections made during the year under the Public Health Acts, 237; number of informal notices issued, 31; number of Statutory notices issued, nil; number of prosecutions, nil.

HOUSING.

A.—(1) TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTED FOR HOUSING DEFECTS (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 24

(2) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 75

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 17

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 7

B.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE ... 2

C.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR under the Housing Acts:—

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 8

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... 8

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(c) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1936.—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses closed as a result of undertakings by owners under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 not to use the houses for human habitation ... 2

DISINFECTION.—

Number of houses disinfected ... 11

Number of houses supplied with disinfectants ... 17

MEAT.—

Number of voluntary surrenders of whole or part carcases—

(a) For tuberculosis ... 1

(b) For other diseases ... 0

(c) Number of seizures ... 0

OTHER FOODS.—

Number of voluntary surrenders of other unsound foods ... 0

Number of seizures of other unsound foods ... 0

WATER.—

Number of samples analysed ... 2

Number polluted ... 2

Number of sources remedied ... 0

Number of sources closed... 0

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—

Conversions to better type:

Midden privy to bucket privy ... 9

Midden privy to water closet ... 3

Bucket privy to water closet ... 4
Number of old houses supplied with closet accommodation for first time ... 9
Number of closets required ... 15

| | Number registered. | Registered in 1937. | Inspections. | Premises defective. | Informal Notices served. | Informal Notices complied with. | Statutory Notices served. | Statutory Notices complied with. | Prosecutions. | Milk Purveyors from outside. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Cowsheds and Farm Dairies ... | 46 | 46 | 57 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Retailing Milk Carts ... | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milk Shops ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Public Slaughter Houses ... | 1 | 0 | 234 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Private Slaughter Houses ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meat Shops ... | 8 | 9 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Retailing Meat Carts ... | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bakehouses ... | 9 | 9 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bread Shops ... | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Retailing Bread Vans ... | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Offensive Trades ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Common Lodging Houses ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

MILK.

Number of samples taken:—

(a) For chemical analysis... 0

(b) For bacterial count ... 5

(c) To examine for tubercle ... 0

Number of producers registered as selling:—

(a) Certified Milk ... 1

(b) Grade A. Milk ... 5

(c) Pasteurised Milk ... 0

(d) Grade A.T.T. Milk ... 0

Number of reports of breach of the Public Health Regulations:—

(a) Because of disease amongst the animals ... 0

(b) Because of disease amongst persons handling the milk ... 0

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

Cases ... 0

SELBY CLARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Port Sanitary Medical Officer's Report for the Year 1938.

During the year 1938, thirty-eight coast-wise mechanically propelled vessels with a total tonnage of 5,422 tons entered the Port of Cardigan. Thirty-one vessels were of British Nationality and seven were of Foreign Nationality.

Thirty-eight inspections were made by my Sanitary Inspector and nineteen inspections were made by me. The sanitary condition of all vessels except one was good. Verbal notice to cleanse the crew's closet was given in one case which was complied with.

No passengers or emigrants left the Port.

The principal imports were coal, cement, millers' produce and general cargoes.

The water tanks and the water supply in each case were quite satisfactory.

The Port Sanitary Medical Officer has no Isolation Hospital into which to place a case of infectious disease should such occur among the crew of an incoming vessel. The nearest Isolation Hospital is Pembroke Dock or Aberystwyth.

SELBY CLARE,

Port Sanitary Medical Officer.

